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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/797,692	03/09/2004	Brian M. May	54900031CPG	4326
27572	7590	05/24/2006		EXAMINER
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			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
				3738

DATE MAILED: 05/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/797,692	MAY ET AL.
	Examiner Bruce E. Snow	Art Unit 3738

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 March 2006.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-28 and 34-38 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 19-25 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,26-28,34,35 and 38 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 2-18,36 and 37 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/20/06.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 3/20/06 have been fully considered. Regarding the objection to the drawings, the Examiner is unclear as to the scope of the term compliant. Why and what is shown that makes element 1512, shown in figure 54, compliant?

Applicant's amendment to at least claim 26 overcame the rejections in view of Weissman et al (5,871,540) and Baccelli et al (2003/0028249).

Regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Justin (6,336,929), applicant argues the device is not configured for receiving an external prosthesis. As noted in the rejection, head of element 607 is external to the bone and is interpreted as an external prosthesis. Additionally, one can easily understand that the head is fully capable of attaching something (which is not being claimed) which could extend external to the patient's body.

Applicant further argues that Justin fails to disclose an extension configured for receiving an external prosthesis. See extension 30 which connects to the head of element 607.

Applicant further argues Justin fails to disclose that the main body and the extension define first and second engagement surfaces configured for constraining a bone graft between the first and second engagement surfaces. See the rejection describing the opposed facing surfaces of elements 607 and 608.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 19-25 allowed.

Claims 2-18, 36 and 37 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the election embodiment shown in figures 53-54 wherein the "compliant portion operable to be expanded and contracted" must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an

application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 26-28, 34, 35, and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Justin (6,336,929).

Referring to all figures, specifically figure 7 for discussion, Justin teaches device for attaching an external prosthesis to a bone, the fixation device comprising a main body 10 including a compliant portion (including element 40) operable to be expanded and contracted, the main body having a first end (generally element 20 with element 604) fixedly retained in the bone and a second end coupled to an extension (element 30 and 607 or the longitudinal bore of element 30) for receiving the external prosthesis (head of 607 or additionally element), wherein the main body and the extension define respectively first and second engagement surfaces (facing surfaces of elements 607 and 608) configured for constraining a bone graft between the first and second engagement surfaces.

Soft tissue can be attached via element 608, etc.

Regarding claim 34, extension 30 has a bore at the longitudinal which could also attach an external prosthesis.

Claim 38, see anchor 604 coupled to the compliant portion via the first end.

Claims 1, 26-28, 34, 35, and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Martin (4,673,407).

Martin teaches a compliant fixation device for attaching an external prosthesis 26 to a bone having an attached bone graft (the bone graft could a shim under the element 64), the fixation device comprising a compliant portion 88 or 56 and first 64 and second engagement surfaces 85 configured for constraining the attached bone graft between the first and second engagement surfaces, the fixation device configured for receiving an external prosthesis 26 at one end.

Claim 34, see extension 24 or 64.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

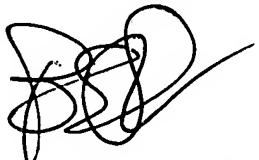
TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bruce E. Snow whose telephone number is (571) 272-4759. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott can be reached on (571) 272-4754. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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BRUCE SNOW
PRIMARY EXAMINER